

The Daily Gazetteer.

NUMB. 152.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23. 1735.

N^o. 152.

Some Thoughts occasioned by our Religious Differences.



AFTER so long a Possession of the Liberty of free Enquiry, as this Nation has been blessed with, and so universal an Acknowledgment of the Right of private Judgment, as has prevailed among Englishmen; it is not less astonishing than it is lamentable, that Difference of Sentiments should still produce unfocial Disagreements; that Controversies should still be deformed and embittered with the most ungenerous Suggestions and unneighbourly Alperities, as if an honest Intention was incompatible with a mistaken Judgment.

For my Part, I cannot help thinking, that Disputants judge very wrongly for their own Interests, when they depart from Moderation and Candour. They take a Method the farthest of any removed from Instruction, and prevent the Conviction of their Adversaries, by an Usage that must give Strength to every Prejudice against them.

Such a Conduct is, in every kind of Debate, as unprofitable as it is disingenuous; but, in Religious Disputes, it is most of all to be condemned, as it is diametrically repugnant to the Nature and Spirit of Religion, whose Precepts enjoin Moderation, whose Laws are Laws of Kindness, and whose Essence is Charity.

It is therefore with great Concern that I read the Religious Controversies now reigning among us, from the Manner in which they are too generally managed. I see the Church accused of Attempts in favour of Persecution; I look for Evidence, but find none. I see the Dissenters charged with being Enemies to the Government; I seek for Proofs, but in vain: I find no Proofs of their sincere Attachment to it. Let me then ask both Parties, not where is Christian Charity, but where is common Justice?

What Occasion is there for hard and bitter Suggestions? If any Alteration is wanted to be made in our Laws, let it be examined in all its Consequences, putting away Hatred, Malice, and Uncharitableness, till its Usefulness or its Disadvantage shall be so universally apparent, that it may be introduced or rejected, without any Disquiet to the People, without putting a Period to the publick Tranquillity.

If, at any Time, an Alteration shall be proposed that is just and fit to be made, he will certainly be a Friend to the Community, who shall prove its Reasonableness so clear to the People, so plain to the Publick Apprehension, that no unhappy Division or Commotion shall attend its taking Place.

On the other hand, if any intended Alteration is, in itself, unjust, and not fit to be complied with, he will be equally deserving of Society, who shall make its Unreasonableness so generally evident and conspicuous, that it may be refused without any publick Disturbance, or considerable Discontent.

In order to these good Ends, let the Combatants on each Side contend only for Truth, and not for Victory; let them compare their Agreements, and settle those Points in which they differ, by those in which they are united.

If this Method was strictly and faithfully pursued, I am persuaded, that most Debates would have a much sweeter, and much happier Issue than they generally have; and as I believe the good Effects of this Rule would be found in every Case, in which it should be made use of, so I am willing to try it in that which is now Rife to my present Reflections.

Let us then consider how far the Religious Disputants among us agree, and in what they differ; and when it is clearly seen what remains to be settled, it may perhaps, with the less Difficulty, be adjudged.

The Dispute between them, I apprehend to be this, whether Subjects, all equally attached to the Support of the same Civil Constitution and Government, should be equally intitled to all the Benefits of such Constitution and Government? Or, whether it be reasonable, that Difference in their Mode of worshipping their Maker, should affect any Part of them in their Civil Concerns, and prove a temporal Disadvantage?

THIS, to my Judgment, is the Question between them; and the Decision of it seems to depend upon the Resolution of another Question, in its Nature previous to this, viz. Whether any one Part of this Community has a Right of determining and fixing the Method of worshipping God for the other Part? For, if no one Part has a Right to settle this Point for another, but every Part is to be guided in it by their own Determinations; it should seem, that no Part ought to be a Loser for the Exercise of a Right common to all. And I apprehend, it would be difficult to give a good Reason in this Case, why one Part should suffer rather than the other, where all have an equal Right to that Mode of Worship which their Judgment approves, provided it tends not to destroy the Civil Happiness of Society. If the Accident of superior Number should be urged in favour of the Majority, as giving them a Right to superior Civil Advantages; this, it must be owned, will be a good Reason at all Times, if at any Time, and plead as strongly and as justly for the same Usage towards their Opinion in a Reverse of Fortune.

BUT it is not my present Purpose so much to give my own Reasonings on these Points, as to examine, How far the contending Parties among us are united in their Sentiments; and whether any possible Medium can be discovered, by which their various Judgments may be consolidated, and brought to a perfect Harmony; any Rule, which being agreed to by both, may be capable of giving a clear and full Determination to those Matters that are still in Debate.

To this I proceed; which naturally leads me to take notice of the Occasional Writer, as one of the chief Champions against the Dissenters.

THE Points or Doctrines in which he concurs with the Dissenters, are as follow.

* THAT the Right of private Judgment is unalienable.

* THAT all Mankind are bound, by a stronger Law than any Society can enact, to pay that Worship to Almighty God which is most acceptable; and of this every Man must judge for himself.

* THAT, by Consequence, as every Man is at Liberty to choose his own Religion; so the Magistrate must be at Liberty to choose for himself also, and to establish such a Form of Worship as he shall think best, so that it does not entrench upon the Freedom of other Mens Consciences.

* THAT nevertheless Magistrates may be, and some have, been greatly mistaken in the Laws and Regulations made upon this Account.

* THAT the Source of these Mischiefs has proceeded not from the publick Appointment of Religious Worship and Instruction; but from not allowing a Toleration to those of different Sentiments, and giving Permission to represent, in a decent Manner, their Exceptions to established Principles, or the Damages that accrue from particular Appointments.

* THAT this Liberty should be allowed, and those who are entrusted with the publick Safety, whose Strength and Glory depend upon the publick Happiness, should hearken to Reason, yield to the Force of Truth, and establish such a Plan as is most just and beneficial.

* THAT if any advantageous Changes can be made in particular Circumstances of our Constitution, such as will at the same time more than balance the Inconveniencies that attend Alterations of this Kind, these Amendments should be proposed and effected.

* THAT the Sentiments which any Man has firmly imbib'd in his own Mind, as just and right, are the natural Rules of his Actions.

THE Friends of Liberty will agree likewise with the Occasional Writer, that when the Dissenters formerly were in Power, they persecuted like those that went before them; that such persecuting Dissenters are to be given up; that Persecutors of all Denominations are to be given up, such a Conduct for ever to be condemn'd, and by no Means to be consider'd, as an Example fit for any Set of Men to imitate.

THESE are Points, in which I apprehend the Occa-

* Occas. Writer, No. 1. p. 10, 11, 12, 20. Id. No. 2. p. 8, 14, 15, 16.

sional Writer and his Antagonists are agreed; let us now consider those, in which they differ, and whether this Difference may not be removed by a Comparison of them together.

THE Doctrines in which they disagree, are, I think, as follow:

* THAT Government is founded on a Cession or Surrender of natural Rights;

* THAT therefore the Magistrate has a Right to take away from those who dissent from him in religious Opinions, on that Account only, their natural Right to be chosen into Places of Power and Trust in the Service of their King and their Country.

* THAT such an Exclusion is no Degree of Punishment.

* THAT Difference of Judgment in Matters merely Religious, proclaims the Dissenters to be Enemies to the Government.

* THAT it is a Waste of Time to enter into a Disquisition of Natural Rights, Private Judgment, and Liberty of Conscience; that the very forming Men into Society will be found to be an Invasion of the natural Rights of Mankind; and when all is said, Men must part with their private Opinions in Matters concerning the Government of the Society, else there can be nothing imagined but Confusion and Disorder. That the Sentiments which any Man has firmly imbibed in his own Mind, as just and right, are the natural Rules of his Actions; therefore the Dissenters ought not to be admitted into Posts of Power and Trust.

THESE appear to me to be some of the Doctrines, about which our religious Combatants are divided; let us next see, if they cannot be reconciled by those Sentiments, in which they are agreed; but as such a Comparison would exceed the proper Limits of my Paper, so I shall give it the Publick in another Letter, and conclude this with a sincere Declaration, that my Endeavours on this Head have no other Direction, but, if possible, to recommend to both the contending Parties, such an amicable Method of Debate as becomes those who profess to make the Happiness of the Community the End of their Labours, and the Guide of their Inquiries.

THE whole Debate before us seems to be an Appeal to natural Justice; let it therefore be conducted, both in Manner and Substance, agreeable to the Fundamental Rule laid down by the Supreme Lawgiver of Christians: Let us, I say, throughout this Controversy, follow the Counsel of the Prince of Peace, and do unto others as we would they should do unto us.

BRITANNUS.

L O N D O N.

Yesterday arrived the Mail which was due from Holland on Friday last; but the Letters being mostly of an old Date, afford little Material that is fresh.

They write from Vienna, that the French Minister M. de l'Estang, often hunts with the Emperor; that the Courier he sent to France some Weeks ago, return'd thither on the 12th, and that the Messenger who was dispatch'd from the Imperial Court to Holland with the Preliminary Articles, was also expected back every Minute, upon whose Return, 'tis affirm'd, that the Emperor will declare who shall be his Plenipotentiaries at the Congress. In the mean time, the following Gentlemen have the Honour to be nominated by the Publick, viz. the Prince Wenceslaus of Lichtenstein for first Plenipo, the Count d'Uhlesfeld for the Second, and the Count de Hartig for the Third. — The Report continues, not only that the Emperor has declared the Marriage of the Archduchess Mary Theresia with the Duke of Lorraine; but that about New Year's Tide he will fix the Day for the Ceremony. Mean time other Apartments are fitting up for the Archduchess Mary Magdalen, those which she occupies at the Imperial Palace, being design'd for the new-married Couple. — We are now told, that the Count de Schlick, who was said to be gone with a Commission to the Court of France, is at Silesia, where he stays to settle the Free Gift which the Emperor has caused to be demanded of the States of that Principality. —

There's

There's Advice that Prince Augustus George of Baden-Baden, Major General of the Troops of the Circle of Swabia, is married at Newhaus in Bohemia, to the Princess Maria Victoria of Arenberg, Eldest Daughter to the Duke. — They write from Metz, that the Princess Charlotte Amelia, Dowager and Regent of Nassau Saarbruck, and by Birth, Princess of Nassau-Dillenburg, was lately there with her Son Prince Henry William of Nassau, her Daughter the Princess Frances Dorothy, and a numerous Retinue, and that she was received with great Ceremony and extraordinary Marks of Distinction by the Count de Belleisle, Governor of the Three Bishopricks, and the Bishop and Magistrates of Metz. — The Letters add, that the Spanish Agent the Abbe de Piombelli, who is said to be vested with a Commission from King Philip for some Negotiation, is often in Conference with the Imperial Ministers: And according to the Tenor of several Letters both from France and Spain, his Catholick Majesty seems very inclineable towards an Accommodation.

According to Advices from Constantinople, the Affairs of the Porte are in a very fluctuating Condition; one while Things seem to tend towards an Accommodation with Persia; and at other Times as if some Enterprize was to be formed in Aid and Assistance of the Tartars. This Uncertainty is ascribed to the Intrigues in the Seraglio, where the Sultaness Mother has such an Ascendant as influences all the Resolutions of the Divan. But, after all, 'tis believed, that an Accommodation will be made with Persia at any Rate, even tho' the Sacrifice of the Places conquered from that Kingdom, should be the Purchase of the Peace. The new Grand Vizier (who is a Man of great Knowledge and Experience, Integrity, Forecast, and of Severity too when 'tis necessary, as appears by his strangling the Heads of the Faction that would have stirred up the People to a Rebellion) seems inclineable also to put an End to the War with Persia; and 'tis believed that he will actually accomplish it, the Difficulties that all along retarded a Peace, being removed; for the Persians are now become Masters of Georgia, the Country of which before they demanded Restitution; besides, this Grand Vizier was always for restoring it to them, and when he was no more than a Serafsquier, he treated with Kouli Kan to give it up to him. But the Doctors of the Law opposed it at that Time, pretending, that the Porte could not, in Conscience, give back a Province which was actually in their Power. Mean time, tho' this Difficulty is vanished, two others are now started by the Demand of the Persian General, that the Porte should reimburse all the Expences of the War; and that they should own the Czarina for Guarantee of the Peace.

The Hopes of King Augustus's speedy Return into Saxony, are destroyed by the last Letters from Warlaw, which say, that he has resolved to stay in Poland till after the next Extraordinary Dyet; and that he has been principally persuaded to this by the Representations of the Primate and several Grandees, who have convinced him of the Danger that may attend his Absence at a juncture, when the ill Success of the last Dyet, and the Discord among the Deputies, render it to be suspected, that the Peace, which begins to be re-established in the Kingdom, will be interrupted by those of turbulent Spirits.

They write from Holland, that the Governess of the Austrian Netherlands has prohibited the Exportation of Hemp or Flax, whether dressed or undressed, upon the Penalty of 100 Florins. — On the 23d the Prince and Princess of Orange set out from the Hague for Friesland.

Bristol Dec. 20. We have an extraordinary Instance of Generosity of a Captain of a Ship belonging to this Port; but as opposite an Instance of Ingratitude by the Receivers of so signal a Piece of Christian Civility and Humanity: It is with Respect to Captain Hare, Commander of the Charming Molly, bound from Carolina hither, where he arrived last Thursday. In his Passage he fortunately met with a large French Ship, in the utmost Distress, with 50 Souls on board, just upon the Minute of sinking, who in the most piteous Manner begged for God's Sake the Assistance of Captain Hare to save their Lives; the Captain compassionately commiserated their Case, and immediately order'd his Boat to be hoisted out for their Relief, which at several Trips fetch'd them all safe on board: But mind; two Days after, they had forgot so happy a Deliverance, and in the most unthoughtful Manner impudently assum'd and rended from Capt. Hare his Command of that Vessel which had sav'd their Lives, and navigated her for St. Martin's, their designed Port in France; but Providence was not so favourable to their ungrateful Intention, they meeting with heavy Rains and hard Gales of Wind, and tho' they had made that very Port, could not get in, being obliged to bear away,

after manifest Hazard of a second Danger; but prefer'd from that Misfortune they so much deserv'd, and steer'd their Course for St. Sebastian's, in the Principality of Biscay, at the Mouth of the River Gurvinco, where is a fine Harbour and two Castles belonging to Spain: Upon their Arrival, the Magistrates were so sensibly touch'd with the Relation of Capt. Hare and his Sailors, and the Perfidiousness of the French, that they secur'd a handsome Sum of Dollars, which they had deposited in Capt. Hare's Custody, lest they should rob him, in order to make him some Restitution for their treacherous Usage, and Disappointment of his Voyage, and other Damage received by their cutting his Cables, and doing him other Mischief.

On the 11th of this Month Mr. George Ross, lately elected Humanity Professor in the College of Glasgow, delivered his inaugural Oration upon the Necessity and great Usefulness of the Studies of Humanity, and was publicly received as Professor in the Chair, vacant by his Father's Dimission.

Last Friday Se'nnight MacAdams and Long of Col. Hamilton's Regiment, gave a Petition into the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, praying their Discharge, in regard the Sentence of Death pronounced against them was suspended by their Lordships. At the same time came on before their Lordships the Suspension of a Sentence of Death pronounced by the Sheriff of Caithness, against James Banks and James Sutherland, for Theft; which Sentence the Court also suspended.

The Duke and Dutches of Athol set out the same Day from Edinburgh for this City; as did the Lord Lyon on the Day following.

Some Days ago as a House-breaker was going to Warwick Gaol, he leapt over a Hedge, in order to make his Escape, and fell over Head and Ears in a deep Ditch, from whence tho' taken out alive, he died in 3 Hours after.

Last Saturday Se'nnight the Man who carries the Worcester News Paper about that Country, was robbed near Coventry, of 15 s. by a Fellow, who, presenting a cock'd Pistol to his Brest, swore he would kill him, if he did not immediately dismount and deliver; after which the Rogue mounted his Horse, and galloped away for Coventry, but turned the Horse loose in a neighbouring Field, where, after diligent Search made for him by the Mayor's Order, the Newsmen found him.

The same Day a Soldier being taken before the Mayor of Stratford, for some Abuse offered to his Landlord, pulled a Pistol out of his Pocket, and snapped it at the Mayor; but the Flint happily falling out, it did not go off. The Soldier was immediately secured.

Thursday last one Thomas Arnall was committed to the Goal of Norwich, for Felony. He was tried last Affizes and whipped, and had been out of Town from the Time of his being discharged till the Day he committed the Felony, when he returned.

Yesterday Se'nnight Mr. Robert Duffin, one of the Portmen of the Borough of Orford in Suffolk, was, in Obedience to his Majesty's Writ of Mandamus, elected Mayor of that Corporation for the present Year.

The same Day one Robert Cafton, who was formerly committed to Ipswich Gaol for robbing the Customhouse, but made his Escape, and stole a Fishing-boat in the River, which he carried away, and sold at Calais, was, by the Diligence of some Constables, retaken and re-committed.

A few Days ago died the Rev. Nathaniel Collington, M. A. Rector of Pluckley in the Diocese of Canterbury, 92 Years of Age, of which he had been 59 Minister of that Parish. The Living is in the Gift of the Archbishop.

The Sieur Angelis, who is settled at Utrecht, where he has found Means to cultivate Silk Worms with as much Success as they are in Italy, had the Honour, this Day Fortnight, to present the Princess of Orange with a Pattern of Silk of this Year's Growth, which her Royal Highness was pleased to receive with great Satisfaction, ordered enough of it to be made for a Gown and Petticoat, to wear on her Majesty's Birthday, and gave M. Angelis a handsome Token of her Liberality.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint George Whitehorn, Esq; to be Captain of an Independent Company of Foot at Jamaica, in the room of Captain Martin, deceased.

Yesterday died at his House at St. Mary le Bone, Roger Gale, Esq; a Gentleman possessed of an Estate at Lewisham in Kent.

Last Sunday died at his House in Goodman's Fields, George Hollis, Esq; formerly a very Eminent Merchant of this City.

Yesterday William Cook was committed to Newgate by Justice Webb, for knocking down William Shepherd, and robbing him of 4 s. and a Silver Watch.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 146. India no Price. South Sea 93 1-8th. Old Annuity 109 3-8ths. New ditto 110 1-4th for the Opening. Three per Cent. Annuity 99 5-8ths. Emperor's Loan 109 1-4th. Royal Assurance 102. London Assurance 13 to 1-8th. York Buildings 2. African 15. India Bonds 51 1-4th. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 31 1-4th. Premium. South Sea Bonds, 41 5 s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 51 5 s. Premium. Salt Tallies 3 1-2 to 4 1-4th. Prem. English Copper 21 1-2 s. Weigh ditto, Books shut. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 2 3-4ths per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 110.

This Day is Published,
In the HYP-DOCTOR,
A Reply to the last Craftsman on the
Standing Army of Writers; shewing it to be a scurrilous Letter in the last Crab-street Journal, subtitled *Philograbus*, — by Mr. Orator Henley; — relating to the *Philosopher's Prayer*. 2. The Key to the English Law continued.
Sold by J. Roberts in Warwick-lane, at the Royal Exchange, at Mrs. Dodd's without Temple-bar, at Chancery-cross, and at Mr. Jollyffe's in St. James's street. Where may be had the former Numbers.

STOLEN or Stray'd out of a Pasture
Near the Fountain Ale-house in Islington, on Monday Night the 15th Instant, a Grey Mare, between 14 or 15 Hands High, switch'd Tail, little low Back'd, long Hair, and leans hard on the Foot-lock, coming 5 Years Old. Who ever brings her to the Red Crow in Islington, or to Mr. Randolph Hodgkinson's, at the Peacock in Playhouse-yard in White Cross Street, near Cripplegate, London, shall have One Guinea Reward, with reasonable Charges, and no Questions ask'd.

Lately Published,
THE WORKS OF TACITUS, translated into English. In Two Volumes.
Vol. I. Containing the *ANNALS* of TACITUS.
Vol. II. Containing TACITUS's History; his Treatise of the Situation, Customs, and People of Germany; and the Life of Agricola. With an Account of the Situation, Climate, and People of Britain. To which are prefix'd, Critical and Political Observations, viz. A Judgment upon Tacitus and his Writings, his Translators and Commentators; several large Discourses upon Julius Caesar, Augustus, and their Successors, and their Arts of Government; upon Government free and arbitrary; upon Courts, Armies, and Consuls; upon Princes, Ministers, Nobility, and People; upon publick Frugality; upon publick Teaching and Teaching; upon the State of the Romans under the Emperors; the Decline and Misery of that great People, and its Causes, &c.
By Mr. GORDON.
Printed for T. Woodward, at the Half-Moon between the Temple Gates in Fleet-street; and J. Peele, at Lock's Head in Amen-Corner, Patern-ster-Row.

The GRAND SPECIFICK
Cleansing and Strengthening the Reins, &c.
A Medicine that hath gain'd so much
Reputation, for these many Years it has been published that not one of the many Pretenders to cure the like Complaints has at all hinder'd the just Reputation this first and only Specifick, for these Purposes, hath and does obtain, by its noble Effects.
For it may be certainly depended on as absolutely effectual for carrying off, by Urine, safely and speedily, all the Effects of secret Injuries, Remains of pernicious unskillfully prepared Mercurials, Gleet, or Weakness, thro' tedious or ill managed Cures of the Venereal Disease; or from Self-pollution, immoderate Coition, &c.
Also any Weaknesses of the Vessels from Wrenches, Strains, Blows, or Falls, and all other Obstructions in the Passages, even Stranguries, Ulcers, &c. are perfectly cured by it, be they of ever so long standing; which Reliefs of Ailments are, in Part, discovered by these following Symptoms, viz. Weakness and Pain in the Back, a Sharpness in Urine, its strong Smell, Films or Hairs as it were fixed about in it, and, in some, too frequent Occasion to micturate.
This noble Specifick is also of singular and very extraordinary Use and Efficacy, where there is any Gravel, or small Stones, Slime, or any other Matter that obstructs Urine, bringing all away in a few Times taking, with Relief and to the very great Satisfaction of the Patients, as is happily experienced by great Numbers of both Sexes, and particularly by a Gentleman, whose Case has so often been mentioned in this Advertisement, by a Certificate of his Cure, who, on taking but a little of this noble Specifick, was above an Ounce of Gravel, and was cured of an Inflammation of the Bladder, &c. by a short Continuance of it.
It also strengthens and recovers, after a particular Manner, all Relaxations of the Vessels, confirms the Parts, brings into Order, and thereby perfects the Cure to Admiration. It is a very pleasant Medicine, and will be found of uncommon Benefit to Mankind, beyond Expectation, which is the Reason of its being made publick, and to obviate the Impugnations of Pretenders in all the difficult Cases above-mentioned.
One Bottle, in most Cases, is sufficient for a perfect Cure, as you will see by the Directions given with it.
Sold at 7 s. 6 d. the Bottle, at Mr. Sandwell's Tor in the Griffin, the Corner of Bucklersbury in the Parishes of St. Andrew & St. Dunstons.